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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/995,097	11/27/2001	Nick (Nicholas Sheppard) Bromer		9382
7590	02/08/2006		EXAMINER	
Nick (Nicholas Sheppard) Bromer 402 Stackstown Road Marietta, PA 17547-9311			KLEBE, GERALD B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3618	

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/995,097	BROMER, NICK (NICHOLAS SHEPPARD)
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Gerald B. Klebe	3618

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005 and 13 October 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 5,6,9,11-15 and 17-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5,9,11-15,17-19,22,24,26 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6,20,21,23 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

*GB Klebe
10 January 2006*

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

Prosecution Re-opened / Replacement Office Action

1. As a result of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision of 09/19/2005 regarding the instant application, Applicant's subsequent amendments filed 10/03/2005 and 10/13/2005 and the examiner's consequent better understanding of the claims, prosecution is hereby re-opened and a reconsidered examination on the merits follows.

This Office Action replaces the previous Office Action mailed 11/16/2005.

Amendments

2. Applicant's Amendment After Final Rejection and Board Action filed 10/03/2005 and Second Amendment After Final Rejection and Board Action filed 10/13/2005 have been entered. Claims 5-6, 9, 11-15, and 17-27 are pending in the application; claims 1-4, 7-8, 10, and 16 being cancelled and new claims 18-19 being added by the amendment filed 10/03/2005 and new claims 20-27 being added by the amendment filed 10/13/2005.

An action on the merits of the pending claims 5-6, 9, 11-15 and 17-27 follows; claims 5, 13, and 17 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 5, 12-15, 18, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsmith (US 5232231).

Carlsmith discloses a skate braking mechanism (refer Figures 3-11 and associated text) comprising: (re: claims 5 and 13) a brake (combination of elements 24, 35, 32 and shoe 30 and drum 41); a lifter (taken as the toe portion of 62) connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user to actuate the brake; wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe (30) coupled to the lifter, and wherein the brake shoe bears on at least one wheel (by virtue of the brake drum (41) being connected to the wheel (42); refer col 7, lines 46-55) of the skate when actuated; and,

(re: the further limitation of claim 13) wherein the lifter (taken as the toe portion of 62) is positioned above the toe of the user forward of metatarsals of the foot of the user (inherently, as shown); and,

(re: claim 12) wherein the braking mechanism further comprises a return spring (22) counteracting an upward pressing motion of the toe (refer col 10, lines 2-6); and,

(re: claim 14) wherein the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe (refer col 9, lines 40-42 and col 10, lines 2-6); and,

(re: claim 15) wherein the lifter is pivoted about a pivot axis (col 9, lines 35-40 and see Fig 11) adjacent the toe; and,

(re: claim 18) wherein the lifter (62) is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe (refer col 9, lines 40-42); and,

(re: claim 22) wherein the brake shoe (30) is coupled to the lifter (62) via a linkage (see Figs 4 and 11, and refer col 9, lines 35-61 and col 10, lines 51-54); and,

(re: claim 24) wherein the brake shoe (30) is coupled to the lifter (62) via a linkage (see Figs 4 and 11, and refer col 9, lines 35-61 and col 10, lines 51-54).

EXAMINER'S NOTE: Regarding the recitation: " whereby the brake connected to the lifter is actuated according to a natural motion of the user to maintain balance", it has been held that the functional "whereby" recitation does not define any structure and accordingly can not serve to distinguish. In re Mason, 114 USPQ 127, 44 CCPA 937 (1957).

5. Claims 17, 19 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoskin (US 5183275).

Hoskin discloses a skate braking mechanism for a user having a toe and standing on a skate comprising: (re: claim 17) a brake (Fig 1, item 10; and refer to the associated text); and a lifter (20f) connected to the brake and pressable upward by the toe of the user (refer col 6, lines 50-56); wherein the brake comprises a brake shoe (taken as the surface 72r of wheel 82r; refer col 5, lines 51-54) that is pivoted to rotate about an axle (106a) of a first wheel (82r), so as to bear against a second wheel (23w); and wherein (re: claim 19) the lifter is pivoted to be moved upward by the toe (refer col 6, lines 50-53); and (re: claim 26) wherein the brake shoe (72r) is coupled to the lifter (20f) via a linkage (combination 94s and 96s).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 9, 11 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsmith (US 5232231) in view of TenEyck et al. (US 5569629).

As discussed above, Carlsmith discloses all of the features of claim 5 from which claims 9, 11 and 27 depend. Carlsmith further discloses the use of urethane elastomer for the wheels (refer col 7, lines 46-49) but is silent regarding the material of the brake shoe wherein (**re: claim 9**) the brake shoe comprises fiber-reinforced elastomer; wherein (**re: claim 11**) the elastomer comprises urethane; and wherein (**re: claim 27**) the brake shoe comprises a portion of fiber-reinforced elastomer belt.

However, TenEyck et al. teaches the use of fiber-reinforced urethane elastomers as material for manufacture of brake pads for vehicles (refer col 3, lines 46-52 and col 7, line 52 to col 8, line 5).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the instant invention was made to have used (**re: claims 9, 11 and 27**) a fiber-reinforced urethane elastomeric material for the brake shoe in accordance with the teachings of TenEyck et al. on the basis of its suitability for the intended use of a brake shoe that will perform well at high temperatures caused by the combination of braking and skating on hot surfaces as suggested by the reference at column 3, lines 40ff.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 6, 20, 21, 23 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art made of Record

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The prior art of Bellehumeur (-015); of Johnson; of Perner; of Chou; of Pennestri; of

Shifrin; of Stoughton et al.; of Gatel et al.; of Gignoux et al.; of Strothmann et al.; of Colla; and of O'Donnell et al. each show features in common with some of the other structures of the inventive concept disclosed in the instant application.

Conclusion

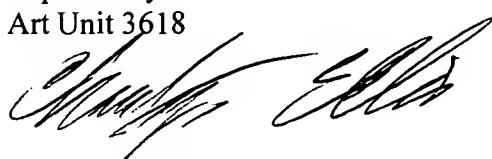
10. Any inquiry concerning this or earlier communication(s) from the examiner should be directed to Gerald B. Klebe at 571-272-6695; Mon.-Fri., 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM ET, or to Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher P. Ellis, Art Unit 3618, at 571-272-6914.

Official correspondence should be sent to the following TC 3600 Official number as follows: 571-273-8300.

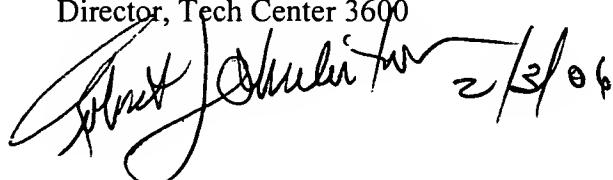
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gbklebe / Art Unit 3618 / 3 February 2006

Christopher P. Ellis
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3618



Robert J. Oberleitner
Director, Tech Center 3600



Robert J. Oberleitner 2/3/06